

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7301

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3644

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP XM

SUBJ: SECVISIT: LA PLATFORM FOR SECRETARY' S POLICY SPEECH

REF: STATE 084469, PARA 8

1. IN OUR OPINION, THE BEST PLATFORM FOR THE SECRETARY TO MAKE A POLICY SPEECH WOULD BE AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE KNOWN AS THE CASA BOLIVAR. THE CASA BOLIVAR IS ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE MOST HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN LATIN AMERICA. THE HOST WOULD BE THE PRESIDENT TOGETHER WITH HIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. THE AUDIENCE WOULD BE COMPOSED OF FORMER PRESIDENTS, THE SUPREME COURT, THE CABINET, CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, CHURCH DIGNITARIES, BUSINESS, MILITARY, LABOR AND UNIVERSITY HEADS AND PRESS. THE PRINCIPAL SALON OF THE CASA BOLIVAR HAS CAPACITY FOR SOME 200 PEOPLE.

2. A SECOND POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO HAVE THE COLOMBIAN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (INCOLDA) SPONSOR THE SECRETARY' S ADDRESS IN THE NEW AND COMMODIOUS LUIS ANGEL ARANGO THEATER WHICH HAS A SEATING CAPACITY OF 364 PERSONS. INCOLDA IS A NON- PARTISAN APOLITICAL ASSOCIATION WHICH INCLUDES IN ITS MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAMS LEADERS IN THE FIELDS OF GOVERNMENT, MILITARY, CHURCH AND LABOR.

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3. BOGOTA WOULD PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE SETTING
FOR A MAJOR POLICY ADDRESS AS COLOMBIA HAS
ACHIEVED SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS
WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK THROUGH COOPERATION
AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. MOREOVER,
THERE ARE NO BASIC PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT THE
LONGSTANDING EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, THE SECRETARY'S
POLICY STATEMENT COULD MORE EASILY ADDRESS ANY
MATTER HE WISHES WITHOUT THE NEED TO TREAD
CAREFULLY BECAUSE OF ANY BILATERAL ISSUES.
SACCIO

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. MILLER S/S

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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